**Minutes of LDGS Forum meeting 17 June 2025 at Claver Hill**

**Present:** Abi Mills, Zoe Munby, Steve Bullen, Clio Graham, Paul Wiggins, Cheryl Kirkham, Martin Wain, Kathy Barton, Hilary Smith, Helen Brister, Tim Newton, Joy Greenwood, Ian Procter, Jean O’Neil, Dave Brooks, Sam Riches, Chris Bailey, Jane, Yvon Appleby, Kathryn McNicholls, Diane Sammons and Janet Swan.

**Apologies:** Hamish Mills, Erica Jones, Gill Davies, Roger Franklin.

**Groups represented:** Greaves Park, LLC Eden Project liaison, LLC Public Realm, LCC (Biodiversity), LCC Climate Action, Miss Whalley’s Field, Butterfly Conservation, Claver Hill, Dorrington Woods, Williamson Park, The Storey Gardens, De Vitre Gardens, Freemans Woods, Bay Cottage, Fairfield and Aldcliffe Rd Triangle.

**1 Welcome and thanks** Abi thanked Kathy for the inspiring walk round Claver Hill, the Compost Café for the wonderful refreshments and for hosting the LDGS meeting. She introduced exciting news from Green Spaces.

**2 New Grant** Tim explained that LDGS had received a sum of money to be used for grants for voluntary groups supporting green spaces across the District. The funds could be applied for either in sums up to and including £100, or between £100 & £1,000. The primary aim of the funding must be to encourage greater public use and appreciation of public open spaces. Full details – forms etc. will be available on the LDGS website by the 1st September.

**3 New LDGS trustees** Abi made an appeal for volunteer(s) to become trustees. LDGS currently has only 3 trustees. In addition it has a volunteer treasurer and a volunteer responsible for the newsletter. This means that the formal roll of trustee need not be very onerous, but the organization would benefit from a wider representation.

**4 Community Wings** Cheryl introduced herself as representing one of her City Council rolls – Community Liaison for the Eden Project. The Community Wings project had arisen from discussions with Martin Wain of Butterfly Conservation, as to a way to encourage community involvement in supporting butterfly/moth/pollinator friendly areas. There are already 2 supporting projects planned at Oak Tree House to grow plant stock and at the LRI with Natural England to develop grass areas. Community Wings attended the 3 Degrees festival last weekend and was well received. The project aims to be developed from existing staff and organization support (there’s no new money!)

Martin explained Butterfly Conservation’s resources which support this initiative:

1. Wild Space: a map on which spaces can be registered
2. Big Butterfly Count: starts 18th June

There are two student placements arranged with Lancs. University working on establishing a baseline in various places to use as a measure of any improvements achieved. A prototype questionnaire will be available by end Aug. to use on our own spaces. Spaces can be public & private land; examples offered were a Morecambe primary school’s new garden currently under development. Information is available on the Butterfly Conservation website (booklets, posters, ID info).

*Discussion:*

* How do we monitor a large park? *Ans.* Choose areas e.g. on a habitat basis. The student interns can help
* Difficulty encountered from the public at un-mowed grassland? *Ans.* People are more positive as they see the impact.
* Fear of fires in hot weather? *Ans.* No evidence that this has been a significant problem but it was suggested that buffer zones should be wider in some areas. Keep the Council informed where there are worries. There were contradictory responses as to when the Grassland Policy was due for review from different representatives of the Council present. LDGS will happily follow this up.

**7 Venue and date for next meeting**

Abi explained that there was already an offer to host the autumn meeting at Greaves Park, provisionally in the 1st two weeks of September. Volunteers for later meetings would be appreciated. Suggested topics were reports from Green Spaces; up-date on Community Wings and hedge management (invite Fred to talk about the impact of hedge management on bees).